

Message Text

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R 291745Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1394

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL OPORTO

COMUSFORAZ LAJAS AS

CINCEUR VAIHINGIN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0049

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/

SUBJ: AZOREAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: COMUSFORAZ 281300Z (NOTAL)

1. CDS "POLL": THE AZOREAN CDS HAS ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF A "POLL" IT CONDUCTED DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS ON THE ISSUES OF A REFERENDUM AND THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE AZORES. THE CDS CONDUCTED THE SOUNDING DURING MEETINGS HELD THROUGHOUT THE AZORES TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT STATUTE OF AUTONOMY. THE CDS CLAIMS 5548 PEOPLE OR TWO PERCENT OF THE POPULATION OF THE AZORES VOTED. ON THE QUESTION OF A REFERENDUM TO DECIDE THE FUTURE OF THE AZORES, THE "POLL" SHOWED 87 PERCENT IN FAVOR OF A REFERENDUM, 4 PERCENT AGAINST, AND 9 PERCENT ABSTAINED. THE SECOND VOTE ASKED PEOPLE TO CHOSE BETWEEN AUTONOMY, REPRESENTED BY THE DRAFT STATUTE: COMMUNITY, A CDS-A PROPOSAL SIMILIAR COMMONWEALTH STATUS IN THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND INDEPENDENCE. THE "POLL" SHOWED 11 PERCENT WANTED AUTONOMY, 37 PERCENT COMMUNITY, 45 PERCENT INDEPENDENCE AND 6 PERCENT ABSTAINED. THE CDS-A CLAIMS ITS "POLL" IS REPRESENTATIVE SINCE THE MEETINGS WERE PUBLIC AND MANY NON CDS SUPPORTERS ATTENDED. COMMENT: MANY REALIZE THE CDS "POLL" HAS NO SCIENTIFIC CONFIDENTIAL

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BASIS AND REPRESENTS LITTLE MORE THAN THE OPINION OF THOSE WHO

ATTENDED THE CDS MEETINGS. BUT IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OTHER ATTEMPT TO TEST THE OPINIONS OF AZOREANS, THE POLL HAS REAL PROPAGANDA VALUE. IN ADDITION THE "POLL" WAS A SHREWED POLITICAL MANUEVER WHICH WILL ALLOW THE CDS TO CLAIM IT LISTENS TO THE PEOPLE AND IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGNING THE CDS HAS ENGAGED IN RECENTLY.

2. REPORTS THAT GENERAL MAGALHAES ACCUSED PPD & CDS - A LOCAL NEWSPAPER ON JANUARY 29 REPORTED THAT THE "O DIARIO" IN LISBON ALLEGED THAT GENERAL MAGALHAES, IN A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT, ACCUSED THE LOCAL CDS AND PPD OF HIGH TREASON FOR SUPPORTING AZOREAN SEPARATISTS MOVEMENT. THE GENERAL HAS PUBLICLY DENIED THAT A REPORT STATING SUCH THINGS EXISTS.

3. VISIT OF EDUCATION MINISTER: EDUCATION MINISTER VICTOR ALVES VISITED THE AZORES TO PRESIDE OVER THE INSTALLATION OF THE OFFICERS OF THE NEW UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF THE AZORES. IN HIS SPEECH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE DESIRE OF THE AZOREANS FOR A GREATER AUTONOMY AND HIGHLIGHTED THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY IN PROMOTING CULTURAL AUTONOMY. THE MINISTER ACCOMPANIED BY GENERAL MAGALHAES TRAVELLED TO TERCIERA ON JANUARY 28 AND BY COINCIDENCE WERE THERE WHEN FLA SUPPORTERS BLOCKADED THE ENTRANCES TO LAJES BASE.

4. POLITICAL WEEKEND IN THE AZORES: ON JANUARY 30 PS SECRETARY GENERAL MARIO SOARES, AND GENERAL GALVAO DE MELO ACCOMPANIED BY CDS VICE PRESIDENT AMARO DO COSTA WILL ARRIVE IN THE AZORES. BOTH CDS AND PS LEADERS HAVE FULL SCHEDULES OF MEETINGS AND RALLIES IN PONTA DELGADA, ANGRA DO HEROISMO AND HORTA.
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